

Tribal Air News

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Office of Air & Radiation
Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards

From the Tribal Coordinator:

by *Laura McKelvey*



Laura McKelvey (left) is the OAQPS Tribal Program Coordinator

Welcome to the Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) first edition of Tribal Air News. My name is Laura McKelvey and I am the Tribal Program Coordinator for EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS). Our office is responsible for national programs to control air pollutants including ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, and air toxics. We provide technical support in many areas including data collection and analysis, information transfer, and permit programs. We have worked for years with State and local air pollution control agencies in the development and implementation of these air programs. Following the 1998 promulgation of the Tribal Authority Rule, we began to work with the tribes to address air quality issues in Indian Country. My job is to help the Air Office work more effectively with EPA Regions and the tribes on their air programs and to integrate tribal issues into our work.

This newsletter was born from conversations between EPA and the Tribes. In these discussions, Tribal leaders and environmental

professionals made the point that EPA was not notifying the Tribes early enough about plans for new air technical policies and regulations. It is clear that we need to improve our communications with you. Our goal is to use this quarterly newsletter as one of our tools to make Tribal air professionals aware of our air pollution control activities early enough to allow you and your tribe to participate in their development. This newsletter will provide information on upcoming activities, as well as, be a place to report progress. EPA does not intend this newsletter to be the only forum for notification. We will also use the Internet, workgroups, conference calls and other mechanisms to build better working relations with the Regional Offices and you. We hope that this newsletter can give a quick view of new activities and progress in air quality programs. We would also like to showcase activities that are underway in Indian country to help you see how other tribes are addressing the air quality issues they face.

We currently envision that each edition of the newsletter will highlight activities relating to setting National Ambient Air Quality Standards, toxics air pollutants, data collection and analysis, permits, and training programs. We will also include schedules for upcoming activities, meetings and events, and updates on rules, policy and guidance development. We would also like to hear from you about issues and other types of information you would like us to provide in this newsletter. If you have comments or suggestions please contact me by phone at 919-541-5497 or by email at mckelvey.laura@epa.gov.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Help us name this newsletter and send us any meetings, visits to Indian Country, and other suggestions for improvement. Send your suggestions to Jan Cortelyou Lee via e-mail at cortelyoulee.jan@epa.gov. Please let us know the names of others who would like to receive this newsletter.

An Inside Look...

Status Reports

Part 71

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Emission Inventory

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Taking Toxics Out of the Air

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Status Reports



Part 71 Permits

Under the part 71 operating permits program, EPA has the responsibility to issue permits to major sources in Indian country. The program went into effect on March 22, 1999. There are 89 major sources, with the majority located in two Regions -- Region 8 (40) and Region 9 (24). So far, those two Regions have permitted 28 sources and the remainder of sources are required to get their permits this year. For more information contact Scott Voorhees at 919-541-5348 or voorhees.scott@epa.gov



Wildland Fires

EPA has been working with the USDA Forest Service, the Department of the Interior (DOI), other Federal agencies, and State forestry and air pollution control agencies on wildland fire issues for several years. The EPA issued an *Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires* (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1pgm.html>) in May 1998. The policy accepts the principle that fire has a natural role to play in wildland ecosystems, but encourages States and Tribes to adopt smoke management programs to regulate the way prescribed burns are conducted. If you have questions regarding EPA's policy, contact Ken Woodard at 919-541-5697 or woodard.ken@epa.gov



Air/Water Interface Workplan

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) and Office of Water (OW) developed the *Air-Water Interface Work Plan*. The purpose of this work plan is to outline a schedule of specific activities that we are committing to undertake using the authorities of both the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. This combined effort helps to coordinate our Offices' programs and to track EPA's progress in reducing air deposition of toxic air pollutants and nitrogen to all water bodies in the United States. The EPA will review and update the work plan every two years. For more information contact Peter Murchie at 919-541-1051 or at murchie.peter@epa.gov.



Emission Inventory

EPA is beginning work on a 1999 National Emission Inventory (NEI). We encourage tribes to review the draft NEI which will be available in the Fall of 2001 to ensure accurate characterization of sources on Indian lands. Also, we encourage tribes with emission inventories to provide us their data prior to June 1, 2001, so that we can incorporate them into the NEI data base. This data base will be used as the basis for EPA and Regional Planning Organizations' modeling efforts, human exposure modeling, and tracking of air pollutant trends. Emission Inventory guidance is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief>. For more information, contact David Misenheimer at (919) 541-5473 or misenheimer.david@epa.gov

Professional Development

Professional Internships

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University has developed the Professional Internship program to help meet the training needs of tribal air quality professionals. EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards is looking forward to hosting interns interested in: writing a Tribal Implementation Plan, air toxics rule development and rule implementation, Title V and New Source Review permitting, emission inventory, dispersion modeling, and community education and outreach. Contact Fonda Swimmer at ITEP 520-523-8785 for information and application materials.

Air Pollution Training Institute

EPA's Air Pollution Training Institute (APTI) offers a variety of training opportunities for air pollution professionals. There are four types of courses available: classroom, tele-course, self-instructional courses and web-based. These courses are offered free of charge to Tribal environmental professionals. For a schedule of upcoming classroom courses and a listing of self-instructional courses, please visit the APTI Course Catalog website at <http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/eog/apticat.html>. For more information about the catalog, please contact Jan Cortelyou Lee at 919-541-5393 or cortelyoulee.jan@epa.gov.

Toxic Air Pollutants

Integrated Air Toxics State/Local/Tribal Program Structure

The State, Local and Tribal Program Structure Workgroup met February through August 2000 to address risks from toxic air pollutants. In September 2000, the workgroup completed a report that contains a suggested structure for a program to address air toxics risk. Next, EPA will develop a workplan to identify issues/questions to be addressed as EPA develops a risk-based air toxics program over the next 2 to 3 years. A website will be developed to share the draft workplan with Tribal representatives and other stakeholders prior to issuance in early 2001. For more information contact Chris Stoneman at 919-541-0823 at stoneman.chris@epa.gov

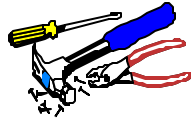
NATA

During the past two years, EPA developed the National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA). NATA provides a snapshot of the air toxics situation as of 1996, focusing on 32 air toxics and diesel particulate matter. EPA previously identified these compounds as posing the greatest concern in urban areas. NATA only looks at inhalation risks from outdoor sources and does not include risks associated with dioxin or over 150 other toxic air pollutants.

NATA consists of four components: 1) estimated emissions of toxics into the air; 2) estimated outdoor concentrations; 3)

Tools

Guidance for Developing Tribal Implementation Plans



The Explanation of Tribal Authority to Develop a Tribal Implementation Plan is due to be finalized in a few weeks and will be available on the Tribal website: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/tribal/airprogs>. For more information contact Julie McClintock at 919-541-5339 or mcclintock.julie@epa.gov

In addition to the draft *Explanation of Tribal Authority to Develop a Tribal Implementation Plan*, the EPA is drafting a more detailed guidance document titled *Developing a Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP)*. The guidance document will discuss why and, in broad terms, how to develop the individual elements of a TIP. Beginning this spring, EPA will make the draft guidance document available to Tribes for review, and will discuss the document at appropriate meetings. Contact Ken Woodard at 919-541-5697 or woodard.ken@epa.gov if you have questions about this document.

Economic Incentive Guidance

On January 19, 2001, EPA issued final guidance designed for states and tribes that want to incorporate economic incentive programs (EIPs) into their implementation plans to improve air quality and visibility. EIPs allow for innovation, flexibility and efficiency in air quality management, while maintaining accountability and enforceability of traditional air quality management programs. The guidance discusses four

estimated population exposure; and 4) risk characterization. The exposure step (3), factors in estimated levels of air toxics that people breathe. In the risk characterization step (4), EPA compares population exposure estimates to specific risk and hazard levels associated with each toxic air pollutant and provides estimates of the potential for cancer risk as well as other health problems.

EPA posted the results of the first two components of the national-scale assessment (1996 emissions and estimated outdoor concentrations) at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/uatw/nata> and expects to post the second two components on this same Internet website in the summer of 2001 following a scientific peer review of the entire assessment.

Instead the national-scale assessment provides the most comprehensive information available to date on the national air toxics problem. However, the results are most meaningful when viewed at the state or national level; for smaller areas, the assessment becomes less certain. EPA plans to improve future national-scale assessments by enhancing data quality (e.g., more complete emissions data) as well as scope (e.g., may include ingestion exposure and exposure to indoor air pollutants). For more information, please call Ellen Wildermann at (919) 541-5408 or wildermann.ellen@epa.gov.

types of EIPs and provides advice on choosing an appropriate type of incentive program, what emission sources to include in that program, and how to make a program successful. The final guidance is available now at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/new.html>.

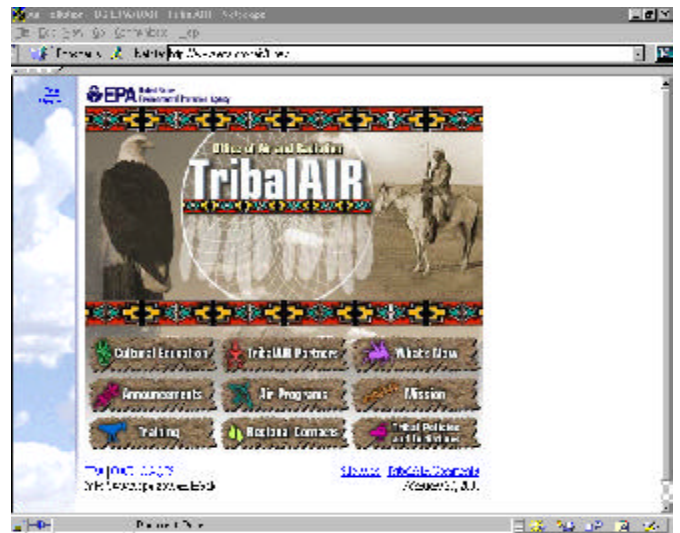
AirNOW

The AirNOW website <http://www.epa.gov/airnow/> is about to begin its fourth season of operation. The website provides real-time air pollution data in a visual format; information about the public health and environmental effects of air pollution; information about ways individuals can protect their health; and actions they can take to reduce pollution. The website currently focuses on ground-level ozone and is starting to focus on particulate matter. We encourage Tribes to participate in this data visualization project. Please contact Chet Wayland at 919-541-4603 or wayland.richard@epa.gov for more information.

Air Quality Trends

EPA produces an annual report documenting air pollution trends in the United States. The report highlights the EPA's most recent assessment of the nation's air quality featuring criteria and hazardous air pollutants, as well as information for visibility impairment and acid deposition. Electronic copies of the recent trends reports and trends brochure can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/>.

Visit the Tribal
Air Website
<http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal>



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Mark your Calendar...

Northern Arizona University's Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) American Indian Air Quality Training Program: Advanced PM2.5 Instrument Operation, April 18-20, 2001, Las Vegas, Nevada

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Air Pollution Distance Learning Network: Inspection Safety Procedures, April 23, 24, & 25, 12:30 - 4:30 PM EDT

US EPA, Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) and State of Colorado: One Atmosphere, One Inventory, Many Challenges, April 30 - May 3, 2001, Denver Colorado

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program: Introduction to Air Quality Management, May 8-11, 2001, Fairbanks, Alaska

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program: Emissions Inventory, May 15-18, 2001, Flagstaff, Arizona

U.S. EPA's Air Pollution Distance Learning Network:

Tribal Air Update, May 23, 1:00 - 4:00 PM EDT

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program: Air Monitoring Network & Design, June 5-8, 2001, Flagstaff, Arizona

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program: Air Quality Program Administration June 12-15, 2001, Salish-Kootenai, Montana

ITEP's National Tribal Forum (3 of 3): June 27 & 28, 2001, Washington, DC

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program: Developing a Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) July 10-12, 2001, Fond du Lac, Minnesota